

**Behavioral Health Consortium (Quarterly)**

Date and Time:	01/18/2022 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Location:	Virtual Meeting ID: <b>821 3486 4982</b> Passcode: <b>514096</b>
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**Attending:**

**Staff:** Ja'na Tate, Georgina Class-Peters, Laura Wisniewski, Abby Betts, Miguel Hurtado, Keith Warren, Susan Holloway, Maggie Talamantes, Mary Kane

**Topic: (1) Welcome from Lt. Governor Hall-Long**

Welcome from Lt. Governor Hall-Long

**Topic: (2) Approval of Meeting Minutes and Story of Recovery**

**Discussion:** The meeting began with request for BHC approval of minutes from previous meeting.

Dave Humes (BHC Committee) moved approval of minutes.  
Rebecca King seconded motion for approval  
Lt. Governor introduced Andre Rider.

- Andre Rider told his story of recovery. Andre currently works at Brandywine Counseling as a peer specialist, is a member of their outreach team, leads Narcan trainings and more. He struggled with addiction for 30 years but has been recovering for 9 years and believes the journey of recovery is long but rewarding because you can be an example for others along the way.

**Topics: (3 & 4) Introduction of Susan Holloway/ Opioid Settlement Distribution Commission Update:**

**Discussion:**

Introduction of Susan Holloway

- Lt. Governor introduced Dr. Holloway’s professional background and experience with the State of Delaware. Thanks to the leadership in the legislature, the state created the Opioid Settlement Distribution Commission, which is separate from the Opioid Impact Fee.

Opioid Settlement Distribution Commission Update: Susan Holloway

- Susan described the Commission’s roles as overseeing and making recommendations to the BHC regarding how to distribute the funds that Delaware receives for its Opioid Settlement Fund and the Opioid Impact Fee Fund. The Commission is comprised of 15 members from across the state, co-chaired by the governor and the Attorney General. The

Commission meets quarterly; all members are specifically identified in the Delaware code. Information about the Commission members, meeting agenda and meeting minutes is available on the website. [url](#)

- The first meeting of the Commission in 2022 will be virtual and will take place on January 31<sup>st</sup> at 11 am. The commission will discuss the application and review process and methods of distribution of funds. Another important topic they will discuss will be the establishment of a local government committee, which will provide recommendations to the Committee regarding the distribution of Settlement and Impact funds. The Committee will seek input from the public.

## **Topic: (5) Committee Updates**

### **Topic: Access and Treatment: Dr. Gibney**

Goals of previous meeting to determine what objectives to tackle and identify.

Medical clearance.

- Many facilities deny coverage – saying they need medical clearance. Particularly in ER.
- Need to standardize what people really want. People come in with myriad of issues, suddenly they are in ER. Want to work in this area to get template of standardization guidelines. Stabilization needed in addition with medical clearance.

People with ongoing complex medical issues.

- Smooth transition for people to get into treatment (so they do not have to go through ER).

Lack of access to telehealth.

- Look into cases where people have no internet or telephone access but need treatment. The Committee will investigate ways to increase access.

Community outreach.

- Have done community outreach with Narcan in Wilmington, Claymont, etc.
- MLK Day, provided masks, COVID-rapid tests, etc.
- Lt. Governor was involved in this process.

### **Topic: Changing Perceptions: Dr. Josh Thomas**

In good shape as a committee. Represents a nice diversity of organizations in DE.

Continue to emphasize importance of feedback.

Priorities: partial victory in getting licensing boards to adopt CEU requirement for licensed professionals. Required to get additional credits for new cycle in cultural humility. Understanding clients' cultural perspectives.

Counseling and addiction board in DE adopted our recommendation. Awaiting formal change to licensing regulations. Will share when released.

As committee members, focused on second priority, monitoring the legislative process.

Doing this in collaboration with policy committee to see where legislature work crosses over into our work. Provide perspective and input when welcomed.

Focused on promoting job fairs to help people on recovery. Find opportunities for employment. Resources available to help prepare for return to workforce. Connected Alta from the libraries, as well as DSAMH.

Finally, focused on providing guidelines for employers if interested in employing people who are in recovery. Ways they can support their employees, and minding employment relationship.

Interested in getting help from BHC in funding opportunities to secure resources to help us write guidelines and advise on legal issues.

**David Humes:**

Libraries in DE are great resources, Chromebooks available.

Legislation: loophole in immunity for persons administering naloxone. Worked with Sen. Hansen, Rep. Benson.

Continue to work in this area. Some companies reluctant to have naloxone on site, due to insurance companies fear of immunity. With Sen Hansen and Rep. Benson, can help with those objections.

**Topic: (6) DSAMH Update: Director Joanna Champney**

**Director Joanna Champney:**

Update on SOR grant, projects moving along well. Having meetings with grantees.

Events associated with SORG, save date for statewide recovery conference, March 30-31.

Strategies for engaging homeless individuals. Homeless outreach subcommittee at Bridge Clinic.

Number of partners who do homeless community outreach.

SAMSAH grant tier awards:

1: Screening

2: treatment programs and initiatives

SAMSAH approved request for mobile treatment van.

Beebe Hospital and Net launching these in Sussex County.

Bridge Clinics preparing outreach van for Kent and Sussex counties.

Can use for statewide emergencies to supplement hospital services.

Education campaigns being funded. Their goal is to reduce stigma against opioid use disorder.

Targets general public and healthcare providers.

Addiction treatment resource center – web-based hub. Partnership with Bright Idea. Treating opioid use disorder treatment info.

ATRC unveiled at conference at end of March.

Jan 26: MOUD implementation Webinar for healthcare professionals. 5:15pm-6:30pm

Help healthcare settings understand how they can integrate resources into general practices, OBGYN, etc.

Change that DSAMH engaging in. RFP calls. Begin issuing opening continuous RFP. Allows to reopen RFPs as new info rolls in. Will be issuing more info at end of Feb.

Pregnant and Parenting Women summit on Feb 22 and 24. 4 hours. Treating those women with OUD.

Delawareppw.org

Last update, reached 100000 referrals for behavioral health system. More than 65 orgs that make or receive referrals. 14 different service types. 800-900 referrals a week.  $\frac{3}{4}$  of referrals responded to in under 2 hours. 58% get a response in under 30 minutes.

Treatmentconnection.com public treatment portal. Learn more about treatment in DE.

### **Lt Governor:**

988 and work with suicide prevention.

### **Champney:**

988 Federal mandate requiring states by summer to implement 988 for number for suicide prevention resource center.

Delaware orgs strategizing how to consolidate resources and services. Planning effort underway. Grant for 988 planning in effect.

Law enforcement and behavioral health cooperation.

Developed state plan, figuring out fee issues.

### **Lt Governor:**

\*\*Important to BHC, social determinacies.

**Champney:**

Opioid impact fee fund, provide scholarships for housing or treatment, groceries, etc. Daily expenses prevent people getting into treatment.

Experimenting with transportation resources to and from Bridge Clinic.

Plan to extend those services to other areas.

**Dr. Patel:**

This year, increased to 1.5 million approved. Going to Governor for next cycle.

**Topic: (7) OSOC Update: Co-Chair Joanna Champney**

Overdose system of care. Wonderful productivity. Dr Hong co-chairs. Consists of rural subcommittee, acute opioid use disorder stabilization committee, naloxone subcommittee, quality and evaluation subcommittee.

Quarterly goals.

OSOC team developing draft model with strategic initiative in mind.

Major focus: Work sessions for emergency departments and providers. Relationship between community providers and hospitals. Meetings between groups in progress. How can DSAMH and Public Health assist. Seeing good collaboration results.

A pilot that emergency medical services will tackle - pilot. High risk for OD patients to reuse. Field connection to treatment following naloxone use on-site. No-wrong-door approach.

Groups are continuing naloxone treatment and police diversion training.

**Topic: (8) Committee Updates**

**Topic: Data and Policy: Carolyn Petrak**

Priorities are items that will have the greatest effect toward helping those with behavioral health issues.

- Would like to identify financial resources available to help us draft suggested guidelines by taking advantage of university students or programs.
- Priority 1. Behavioral Health Workforce Crisis
  - BHC priority that Committees will help bring attention to. Place of Workforce focus for BHC will involve D and P Committee.
- Priority 2. Continued Parity advocacy

- Building on work so far.
- Priority 3. D and P's role as general policy support for BHC committees
  - Encourage Committees' focus on legislative action opportunities in their priorities.

**Topic: Education and Prevention: Rebecca King**

- Meeting monthly, with subcommittee meetings biweekly
- Members active, especially on subcommittee

Priority 1: EP10-Implement prescreening tools for ages 10-13, which will assist with the early detection of mental illness and substance use disorder.

Progress:

- Not done, not started
- In progress X
- Complete
- Committee did not address it, but other agency(ies) took responsibility for it.

Comment:

- The School Survey was distributed in November/December to School Chiefs and Charter School Leads. We received 28 responses so far:
  - NCC 21
  - Kent 6
  - Sussex 1
- The EP 10 Subcommittee will meet with School Chiefs at the end of January w/ Sabra Collins, Susan Haberstroh, and Jon Cooper to try to elicit more responses. We would like more from Sussex County. We will close the survey by end of February.
- The Pediatric Survey is complete and will be piloted with 4 providers in January/February, makes any changes and then disseminate in February/March. We will include School-based Wellness Centers.
- We will begin working with Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Centers in March/April.

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Priority 2: EP 11- Address SUD concerns of restaurant and construction industries

Progress:

- Not done, not started
- In progress X
- Complete

- Committee did not address it, but other agency(ies) took responsibility for it. X

Comment:

- For the Restaurant Industry- they launched the Restaurant Accolade Program with the High Five Hospitality Group in September. They have been doing Overdose Prevention Training at restaurants and in person. HMA is looking to engage with more Hospitality groups to engage with them and sell the Restaurant Accolade Program.
- For the Construction Industry- They developed a toolkit. They partnered with ABC and DCA to host Overdose Awareness Events this past summer. They are working with DPH to develop and launch Stigma and SUD trainings. Alexia Wolf from DSAMH was a guest speaker at the Education and Prevention Committee meeting on Jan. 11, 2022 and provided an update on DSAMH's work with vocational high school students in an effort to provide upstream education for the construction industry.

**Topic: (9) DPH Grants Update: John Robinson**

John Robinson reporting on behalf of DPH.

Presentation:

- Awarded:
  - CDC's Overdose Data to Action, Year 3 Continuation
  - SAMHSA's First Responders-Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act Cooperative Agreement Continuation
    - Year 3 just started
  - HRSA's Rural Communities Opioid Response Program
    - 1 million dollars over 3 years – started 9/2021
  - SAMHSA's Strategic prevention framework for prescription drugs
    - 5 years
    - Started 9/2021
- Not Awarded
  - NACCHO's Comprehensive Community Approaches Preventing Substance Use
- Working on
  - SAMHSA's Harm Reduction Grant
    - \$400,000 over 3 years
    - Very competitive and selective

Discussion:

- Additional funding from the USDA can be used for Behavioral Health
- Overdose trend going down – DE is 1 out of 4 states to trend downwards during COVID

**Topic: (10) Committee Updates**

**Topic: Corrections and Law Enforcement: Chuck Sawchenko**

Presentation:

- Robust member involvement at regular meetings
- Membership has evolved
- Diverse perspectives of the committee and new individuals provide a wealth of information
- Dr. Debra Mason as new committee co-chair
- Priorities
  - Increase training for correctional officers to better deal with behavioral needs
  - Develop and increase stronger partnerships and coordination between police departments, school districts, and school resource officers to offer trauma informed training
  - Medicaid status should be shifted from termination to suspension
  - MAT Expansion within department of corrections
  - Standardize post-prison discharge treatment
  - Examine the drug diversion program and the sentencing for individuals with behavioral health diagnoses to explore treatment v prison time
  - Allocate funds specifically to detection and intervention programs, law enforcement diversion programs
  - Evaluate and develop Veteran’s Response Training (VRT) program
  - Priority 6: Study potential post-arrest avenues that would restore an individual’s rights who have behavioral health diagnosis, to increase access to medical services/medication and job/labor markets
    - Discussed but not started
    - Questions of definitions and authority
  - New: Assist LE and the community to address crisis and mental health concerns
  - New: Assist LE and the community by providing services to those who have SUD
  - New: Produce sustainable Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and programs to LE and allied agencies
    - Expand existing, and establish assessment and evaluation

Discussion

- Priority 6 discussion – BHL agrees that it is tough to define

**Topic: Family and Community Readiness: Wade Jones**

- Committee members are active and attend meetings regularly
- New Co-Chair: Rita Landgraf
- Priority
  - 1: Develop opportunities and services for families with autism
    - In progress
  - 2: Expanding services for the elderly and young patients with Dementia and Alzheimer's
    - In progress
    - Looking to support DSAAPD in their development of dementia services

Discussion

- USDA has additional CARES Act funds leftover

**Topic: (11& 12) Public Comments/ Summary and Conclusion**

*Jerome Herlihy* gave tribute to the late Honorable Richard Stephen Gebelein, who passed away late December 2021. Gebelein started the first drug court in Delaware (Newcastle County) and third in the nation.

*Liz Brown* announced an upcoming webinar, scheduled for **Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022**, to discuss the data findings from the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance's (DMMA) study on reimbursement rates for specific substance use disorders (e.g., alcohol, heroin, prescription narcotics). *Brown* distributed DMMA's webinar registration link to the group: **DMMA SUD Rate Study Provider Education Session:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcld-usqTluE9U8sg0X9va373wWD0J7pjAF>

*Chris Locke* provided an update about Sean's House (a local non-profit mental health safe haven for young adults ages 14-24). Since its opening (Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020), the organization has welcomed 6,000 young adults; over 1,300 have used its 24-month peer program, and 41 were saved from suicide.

*Locke* also announced that the 76th Fieldhouse would hold its first basketball tournament for this, starting February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021; all are invited.

**Topic: (12) Summary and Conclusion**

*Lt. Governor* concluded with the following announcements:

- New COVID-19 Testing site opening at the Division of Motor Vehicle (Delaware City)
- The Governor's Office is currently working on state-wide veterans suicide prevention program
- Dial Delaware's HopeLine @ 2-1-1 (1-800-560-3372) for mental health services, or **text** your zip code to **898-211**. (<https://www.delaware211.org/>)

**Next Meeting: April 19<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00A**

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